4. A process according to claim 2, wherein the superficial velocity of the gas is maintained in a range from 0.2 to 1 metre/second.

5. A process according to claim 2, wherein the stoichiometric ratio, R, is maintained in a range from 0.2 to 1.2.

6. A process according to claim 2, wherein the temperature of the fluidized bed is maintained in a range from 550 to 650°C.

## REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 4, 5 and 6.

A new abstract page is supplied to conform to that appearing on the publication page of the WIPO application, but the new Abstract is typed on a separate page as required by U.S. practice.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Brian H. Batzli (Reg. No. 32,960), at 612.336.4755.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

P.O. Box 2903

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903

(612) 332-5300

Dated: December 20, 2000

Brian H. Batzli

Reg. No. 32,960

BHB/kas

By